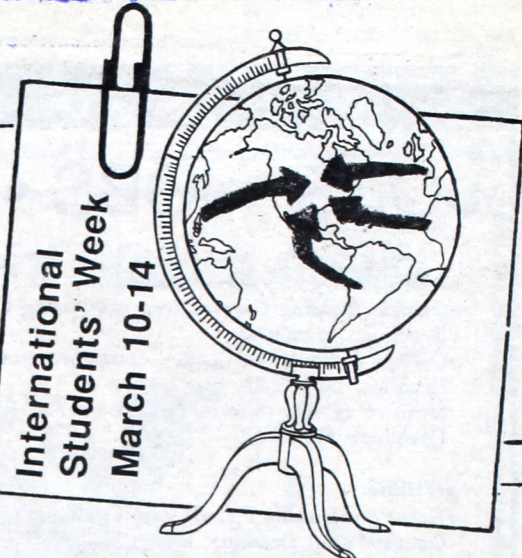


Volume 24, Number 22, Thursday, March 13, 1986

# LAMBDA

Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario



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It's International Students' Week. The International Student Organization on campus says it is important for Laurentian students to attend ISO's events.

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Aspartame. Do we know it's dangers?

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Will rising salaries ruin professional sports

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Bruce Cockburn transmitted his political views into music at a recent Sudbury concert

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## Hard Race

# Hopefuls: On Your Marks....

By Yannis Souris

Promising more services, more student representation and determined to restructure an entire system, at least six hopefuls entered the SGA presidential race last week.

Although nominations have yet to be closed, the phenomenal number of presidential hopefuls is out in full gear trying to win the support of as many SGA members as possible.

Indeed, balloons, posters, pamphlets, T-shirts and long winded rhetorics have bombarded the campus as Mike Erskine, Ben Farella, Charlie Fouriezios, Lucy Luciano, Rob Norris and Sheena Weir try to emphasise their strong points.

SGA president Andrew MacNeil is enthusiastic about the competitive race and believes it will increase interest in SGA amongst the student body.

"This is great for students' awareness of the election," MacNeil said.

With such a cluttered ballot, the candidates will have to run an exciting and original campaign in order to catch students' attention.

"Candidates have to work hard before and after the elections (if they win)," the SGA president said.



Lambda file photo

The Presidential Debates are expected to attract mass interest from the student body.

"They must maintain their promises made during the elections."

President hopefuls aside, the position of Vice-President Internal is being pursued by Karen Keough, Bill Misener and John Walsh, but more candidates are expected to run for this post, the SGA said.

Commenting on the Vice-President Internal race, MacNeil said the candidates must address the

issues related to the position and not dealing with petty details.

"If the Vice-President Internal focuses more on clubs and associations, as a liaison with the SGA rather than getting caught up in financial technicalities, then he/she would be more beneficial to the student body," he said.

Nevertheless, only two students are running for the Vice-President

External position; Dave Filion and Ian Wilkinson.

For the Vice-President Services post, John D'Agostino will try to get re-elected whereas Ian Washington, a newcomer to the political scene, is running against the acting V.P. Services.

The four positions of SGA

See elections page 2

## Federal Budget Bad News For Students

By Peter Kuitenbrouwer

OTTAWA (CUP) — Fifty dollars. That's what Finance Minister Michael Wilson's February 26 budget will mean to most college and university students.

The \$50 is a refund on federal sales tax the government will send this spring to every student who files a tax return and whose annual income is under \$15,000. Most students fall into this category.

Apart from this, the budget contains little good news for students over the short term. While Wilson boasted in his budget speech that "restraining the rate of growth of transfer payments to the provinces for health care and post-secondary education" showed his government's commitment to reducing the federal deficit, he did not announce any new funding or tax measures that will benefit students or impoverished institutions of higher learning.

In fact, students who benefit from federal programmes will be hit with the same restraints as all other sectors by a two per cent reduction in spending on all government programmes not covered by law. "Particular emphasis will be placed on grants and contributions, capital and general operations and maintenance (in the spending cut)" according to the budget papers.

Among affected programmes that

benefit students are federal summer employment schemes, the Canada Student Loan Programme, and a large number of programmes in multi-culturalism and employment and immigration that provide subsidies for study and training. By 1987, the government plans to spend less on these programmes than in 1984.

On top of this two per cent government-wide cut (which does not apply to national defence or international assistance spending) the government will reduce spending on the Canada Jobs Strategy from \$900 million this year to \$800 million next year.

The Job Strategy is the federal training programme designed partly to "help youth and women make the transition from school or home to the labour market."

An official of the finance department who asked not to be named said Canada Jobs Strategy funding is less urgent because the unemployment rate is dropping and provincial and private participation in the training scheme is on the increase.

But the official said the government's good news for students is that their odds of landing a job on graduation are increasing. Wilson projects unemployment will drop to nine per cent from a current 9.8 per cent in the next 20 months.

The government will cut total spending on job creation by \$300 million in the next two years.

The official said "the best thing the government can do for students is to say they won't have to pay incredible taxes on the debt" when they do get a job.

Still, the budget's challenge to private industry that it will match any business's grant to the three federal research councils dollar for dollar up to six per cent of the council's budgets may mean more research money for some graduate students.

"If they (business and the granting councils) get it together, they may well oversee one of the fastest-growing programmes in the government," according to Robert Rand, another finance official.

"I mean, everything else has been screwed down very tight, as you're well aware," the official said.

Students will soon know more about the federal government's priorities in cutting programmes in education and research, which cost \$6 billion this year. Wilson announced all the study team reports of the Nielson Task Force on Programmes Review will be made public March 11. The study team on education and research, reformed last fall, had a mandate of seeking out "waste and duplication" in the programmes.

SGA

# ED

lections

# VOTE

M A R C H

19 • 20 • 21

The Students' General Association Elections are well underway. Don't forget to

# Vote



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- Laurentian University*: Moniteur de langue seconde  
Deadline: March 26

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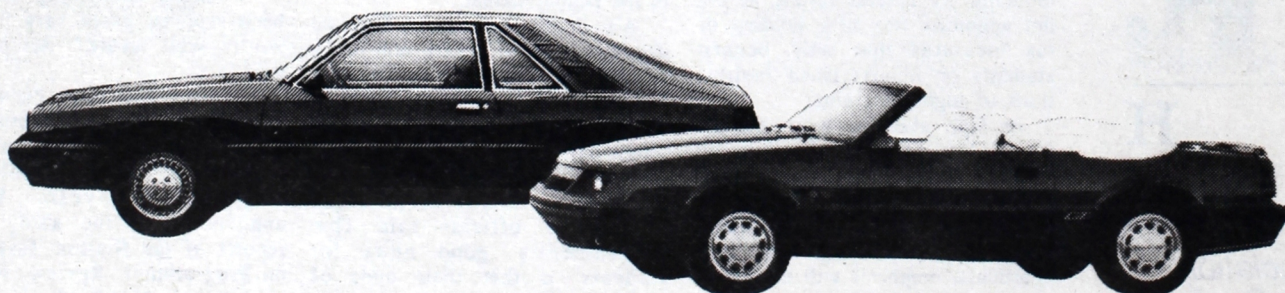
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### Elections continued from page 1

senators do not seem to attract the interest of campus politicians, since only Mike MacDonald and Brandon Tennant are running.

MacNeil explains, "Although senator positions are very important, students are not well-informed about them."

Many believe the increased interest in SGA business this year is the result of certain executive policies that failed miserably and a strong opposition from *Lambda* to the Association's inactivity to address efficiently student issues.

Still, presidential hopefuls remain optimistic despite a hard and tedious election marathon. Many of them were seen campaigning tirelessly during the past week. All candidates have been campaigning constantly at the Pub, the Great Hall and the residences.

However, new campaigning regulations issued by the director of services, Romeo Bertoli will probably discourage candidates from using huge residential wall surfaces to put up posters.

Bertoli told *Lambda* all election posters placed on painted walls will be torn down and only brick-built walls can be used for that purpose.

All presidential hopefuls agree the race is going to be a hard one. Experienced student politicians maintain the same.

"Votes will be split all over," MacNeil said. "I think, the candidate to get a bare 300 votes will win the presidential election."



## International Week at Laurentian University

The International Student Organization (ISO) of Laurentian University announced that International Week will run from March 10<sup>th</sup> to March 14<sup>th</sup> inclusive.

The purpose of this week's activities, the ISO executive says, is to focus attention on the cultural maze of the various groups within our university. "In the past, it seems that people have had conflicting ideas about the objectives and goals of this organization, in that they viewed them only as those of having social gatherings," Giani Braimon, ISO President, said. "We would like to take this opportunity to clarify the objectives of the organization," he added.

The present executive is striving to change this image by reaching all foreign students enrolled at the

University for support among each other, ISO said.

Among these objectives are the following:

1. The setting up of counselling for foreign students relating to academic problems and social and cultural change.
2. Establishing an on-going summer activities program (May-September) for on- and off-campus foreign students.
3. Exchange with other universities' current issues concerning us all.
4. Improving the overall image of foreign students on our campus.

"Our anticipation is that during International Week, all Laurentian students will take the opportunity to observe the displays and share in this cultural exchange," Giani said.

## Future Ontario Doctors Join Extra Billing Protest

TORONTO (CUP) — Many of Ontario's 2,300 medical students have joined the campaign against the Peterson's government's bill to ban extra-billing by the province's doctors.

Representatives of the Ontario Federation of Medical Students (OFMS) voted unanimously February 22 to organize a one-day protest rally at Queen's Park March 27 to fight the proposed ban on extra-billing.

Rally organizers plan to bring in medical students from Western, Queen's, Ottawa, McMaster and the University of Toronto and invite David Peterson, Opposition Leader Larry Grossman and others to speak to them.

The OFMS has set up a Health Accessibility Action Committee to distribute information to medical students about the government's action.

The legislation to extra-billing, Bill 94, would make it illegal for doctors to charge more than the Ontario Health Insurance Plan fee schedule for medical care. It would apply to all doctors, whether or not they are opted into OHIP, and would impose fines of up to \$10,000 on

physicians who extra-bill.

Mike Kovacs, a Western OFMS representative, estimates that almost 80 per cent of medical students are opposed to the legislation, though they are not necessarily in favour of extra-billing. Students oppose Bill 94 for a variety of reasons. Some believe the government is ignoring serious problems in the health care system, especially inadequate funding for hospitals.

Others fear that the legislation is the beginning of government control over how doctors practice medicine, which they believe could lead to a deterioration of medical services. Some complain the legislation doesn't provide for any independent adjudication between doctors and the province when there are disputes over how much doctors can charge.

Twelve per cent of Ontario's 17,000 doctors are opted-out of OHIP, and an estimated six per cent of doctors extra-bill. The OMA has launched a vigorous campaign against the legislation.

Ontario doctors earn between \$50 - \$75,000 a year.

## Animal Liberation Front Strikes Again

TORONTO (CUP) — Animal rights activists renewed their war against research on animals breaking equipment and spray-painting walls at a University of Toronto dental research facility, February 15.

The protesters, who may have entered by the roof, broke a \$4-5,000 pH testing machine and spray-painted two floors with messages like "scum" and "torture motel."

It was the latest action in a guerrilla war U of T researchers say has included a bombing, a deliberately set fire and tampering with the brake lines of the researchers' cars.

The Animal Liberation Front, a radical underground group, claimed responsibility for the latest incident, calling it part of its "economic sabotage campaign against the scum who torture animals."

In a scrawled message delivered to media, the ALF charged research dean Barry Sessle and "his Nazi cohorts" with administering "chronic pain" by implanting electrodes and subjecting animals to other "mindless cruelties."

The university's research animals supervisor, Jim Kenyon, said the vandalism began in 1981 and has occurred about once a year since.

Kenyon said the campaign has ranged from freeing research animals to more violent activities. One year a stick of dynamite blew out a door and Kenyon said his car's brake lines have been cut twice, its oil drained, one-inch screws propped against researchers' tires and the garage of one of his colleagues set on fire.

"Now," said Kenyon, his voice shaking, "you don't start your car without walking around it."

The university has invested \$100,000 on security devices for its labs, including card-access doors and hidden cameras.

The cameras didn't capture the latest offenders because they failed to get inside the research labs, where the video cameras are.

The university says its current census of animals is 100 dogs, 20 cats, 25 non-human primates,



3,000 mice, 5,000 rats, 300 rabbits and a small number of toads, chickens and frogs.

The head of dental research, Barry Sessle, said his staff are studying facial pain, the biology of gum disease and the growth and development of facial bones and muscles.

In "virtually all" the experiments, he said, the animals are

under anaesthetic and won't feel pain. Even in the facial pain experiments, "they still respond to the pain stimulus, but the animals are asleep and they don't feel it," he added.

As for the protesters, Sessle said, "These are really fanatics and I think the police should be treating them like that.... Eventually someone is going to get hurt."

## Katimavik Buried Alive?

By Katherine Whitfield

Not everyone seems to have faith in Brian Mulroney's death certificates, or at least as one Laurentian Student seems to feel, there is still life in the cancelled Katimavik program.

Mark Barnes, a social work student, is circulating a campus-wide petition (1,200 names so far) in an effort to keep the Katimavik issue on the Prime Minister's desk. As a former Katimavik participant, Barnes feels that it is an important program for Canadian students.

Katimavik is a federally funded program which was cancelled earlier this year. Its basic objectives, according to Barnes, were "(a) to let young Canadians explore Canada, and (b)... give them a chance to meet people and experience different cultures."

The program hired students between the ages of 17 and 21 for a nine month period. The students would then spend a total of three months in three different provinces

providing community services and volunteer work. Both meals and rooming were provided, however, wages were only a dollar a day plus an honorarium of \$1,000 upon completion of the nine months.

"The government cancelled the program because they felt that it cost too much and that Katimavik had met its objectives," Barnes said.

Although Barnes is willing to admit that the cost to the government is high (\$10,000 per person in a nine month period), he holds that the Katimavik program still has far to go in meeting its objectives. He argues what there are still many young Canadians out there who could benefit from this program.

Barnes also points out that communities Canada-wide benefit from the services provided. Without the aid of Katimavik, many communities would have to hire expensive help. As Barnes pointed out, "Castloma was entirely repainted by Katimavik for \$1.00 a day [per

person]... two years ago."

Furthermore Barnes insists that Katimavik fulfills more than the three objectives.

"It can help give students a direction in life... teach how to adjust oneself... and teach respect for other people. Believe me, in the three provinces that I experienced when I was in Katimavik I saw many differences."

The aim of Barnes' work is not only to see the reinstatement of Katimavik but to call Mulroney's attention to its place in society. The petition is also to be a form of a gentle reminder.

"I feel that if we just let Brian Mulroney cancel programs and not question his actions, he'll just say no one's interested and cancel further action. With the petition we are letting him know we are interested," Barnes said.

Anyone who wishes to sign the petition or who is willing to help Mark Barnes may contact him at 674-3152.

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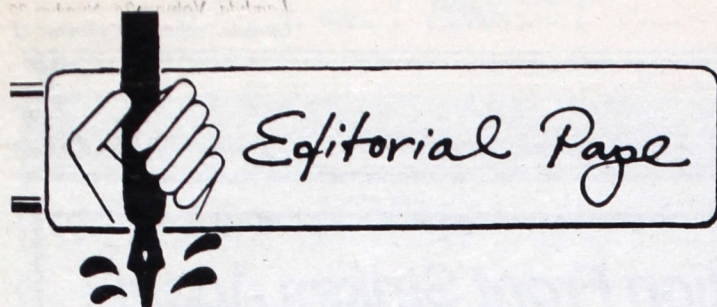
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## Editorial Page

### VOTE!!!

Elections for SGA executive positions take place next Tuesday through Thursday. Vote.

There are unofficially at least six candidates running for president. The other positions are not as popular but they are equally important. Find out how the candidates stand on the issues. For that matter find out the issues. Find out how each candidate stands on the issues that are of importance to you! Then vote.

The candidates should be more than willing to discuss their respective positions (platforms) with you. The fight for your vote is going to be tighter this year because of the number of candidates.

It is so important to vote, and it takes so little time. There are three days to vote, surely you could squeeze in five minutes to vote for

the people who will represent you for the next year. You can't legitimately complain about the SGA and its activities if you don't vote. Everyone's complaining about this year's executive but how many of you voted in last year's election?

There is quite a bit at stake in these elections. The president, once elected, gets \$311 every two weeks (after taxes!), a room in married students residence at half price, and, of course, we all know how wonderful the position looks on the proverbial résumé.

The vice-presidents get a mere \$200 a month honorarium.

You must vote, it's the only way to make a difference. Don't think that your vote won't make a difference, because with the number of people running every vote counts.

Jenifer Rush

### Automated Teller On Campus

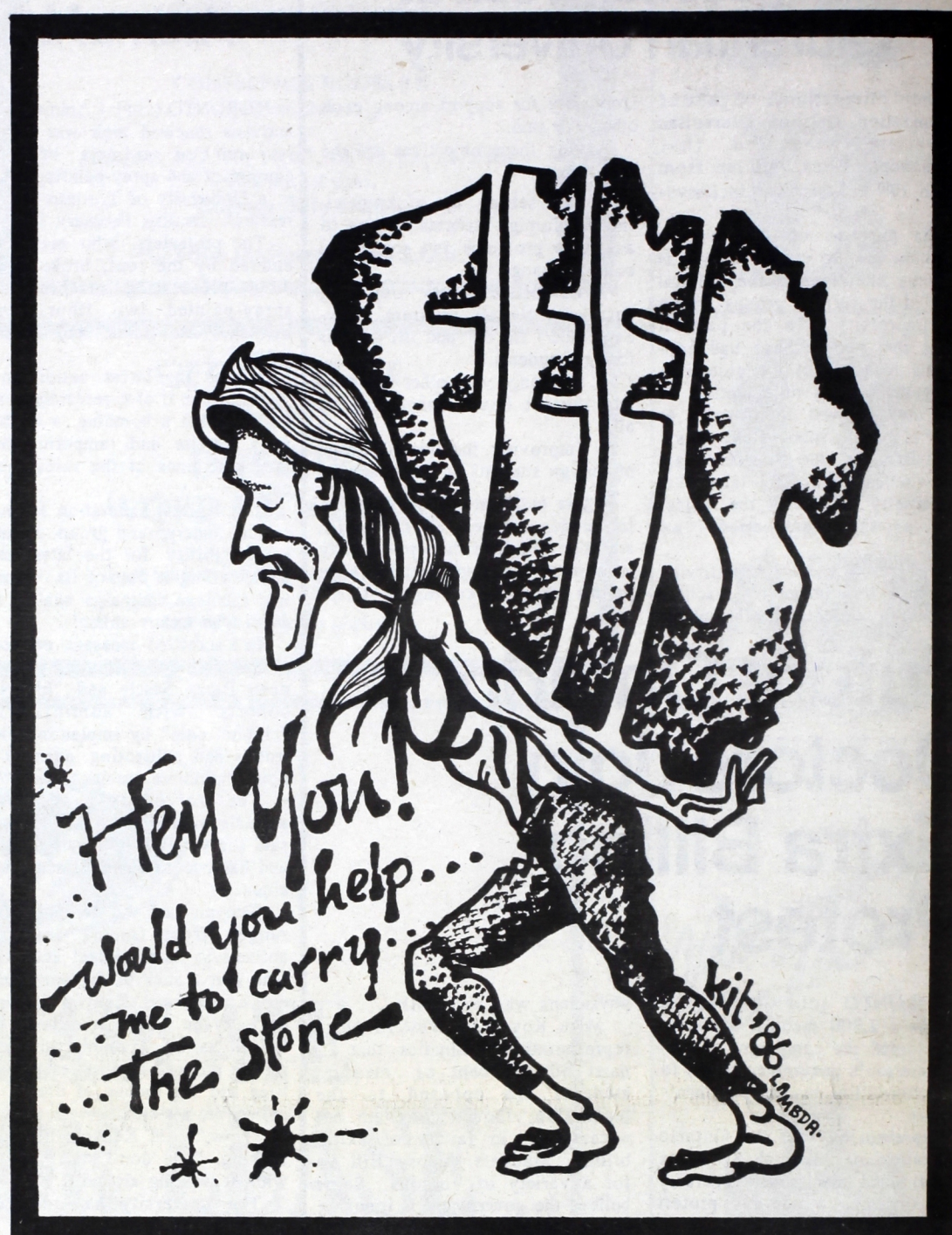
Last June, Vice-President Administration of the University, Ron Chrysler, approached the Regional Manager of the Royal Bank to request an automated teller on campus. The Regional Manager's initial response was positive, but he did not have the power to authorize one.

The request was then passed to the head office. Representatives of the Royal Bank visited Laurentian late last fall to assess possible locations. Their preference was in the foyer of the Great Hall. However, Chrysler said that the administration preferred a location

just outside the foyer of the Great Hall. The Royal Bank proposed an instant cash machine which would simply be available for withdrawals. Chrysler felt that this would not answer all students' needs and has requested a full automated teller be installed. Now, Chrysler is waiting for a response, and said he is still quite optimistic. He says that the teller could be a 24-hour access machine.

If everything goes well, Laurentian students may see the much desired automated teller in the near future.

Jenifer Rush



### Education Out Of Reach For Many Visa Students

Although they don't even comprise five per cent of the student population on Laurentian campus, International students have been always adding character to university life.

But the number of Foreigners studying here and in other universities across Canada is diminishing.

Students from Libya, Indochina, Hong Kong, Central Africa, Malaysia and Europe do not come to Canada to study anymore.

The Reason? Money.

In 1976, the government of Ontario introduced the very controversial differential fees for Visa Students. Since then, the number of overseas students has been dropping dramatically. Not too many can tolerate \$6,500 yearly tuition fees. Not too many can pay universities \$9,500 to enter to enter a Masters program.

Five years ago, the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) was the one to point out the government's unfair policy. A public outcry resulted, but the effect was not the one desired; in 1982 tuition fees for foreigners doubled. The result: Only five visa students came to Laurentian to do their Masters. Not to forget the other faculties: Engineering, Science and Business programs lost a great number of visa students and consequently, University departments lost some of their strength.

Today only three provinces do not discriminate against visa students: Manitoba, Newfoundland and Saskatchewan. But three provinces are not enough. And this is not the only problem.

Foreign students are not allowed to work in Canada, they also face a hostility for "stealing"

education and the cultural barrier that takes a long time to overcome. Day after day, year after year.

And the governments know that discrimination exists on all levels of university life. And they don't do anything about it; fees increase exponentially with time, immigration officers continue to 'harass' foreigners.

Multiculturalism, Canada claims, is the pride of this country, however, our politicians fail to address serious problems concerning visa students. And visa students will be leaving the country chased by unfair and discriminatory policies.

It's time Canada reconsidered the status of Visa students. We have to open the doors again. Foreigners are here to study, just as Canadians are.

Yannis Souris



Lambda is the weekly student newspaper of, by, and for the students of Laurentian University. Lambda is funded through a direct student levy by members of the Students' General Association and is autonomous from all University organizations, both student and administrative.

Lambda is a member of Canadian University Press (CUP) and, as a member, respects, defends, and upholds the CUP Statement of Principles and Code of Ethics.

Local advertising is handled by the Lambda advertising department. Advertising rates quoted on request. Ad deadlines photo-ready: Monday 5:00 p.m. Non photo-ready ads: Friday 5:00 p.m. Copy deadline is Monday noon. Submissions must be typed, double-spaced. Layout is all day Tuesday.

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Staff membership is open to all members of the Laurentian University community and is contingent upon three published contributions during the fall term, or five published contributions during the academic year. All students are invited to express their suggestions, opinions, and encouragement during staff meetings, Mondays at 5:00 p.m.

Special thanks to all those who contributed to or helped to put out this week's issue.

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# Analysis

5

## A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Polls

by Barry Schmidl

It's that time of year again. everybody is running for something it seems. There are six, count 'em (6) people running for the Presidency of the SGA. My, my, we do have a lot of ambitious people in our midst don't we?

Having twice run for, and once been, the President of SGA I thought I should give my thoughts on the matter of who our next glorious leader should be. Are you all holding your breaths waiting for my "official okie-dokie" on one of the candidates? Don't turn too blue, okay. I'm not going to give you my considered opinion on who should bet the illustrious square office in the middle of SGADom.

"Why not," you ask.

Well, the reason is: you people, if you give a damn about your provider of services and defender of rights (supposedly, at least, that's the SGA) you'll have the basic intelligence to check out the candidates for the top job. I will, however, tell you of a few things to look at when you are figuring out who is worthy of your consideration (as well as a few things which should scare you off).

1. Does this person have any experience? Although two of the last three SGA Presidents have not had any experience with Council or any other real elected position, this does not mean that experience is not important. You can't expect a president who just took office to be completely familiar with SGA. Anyone can take advantage of an inexperienced president.

2. Does this person have a platform and will he/she stick to it? Knowing what you want to do before you start a job is always a plus. Letting the people that pay your salary know what you want to do before you start a job is even better. If someone running for SGA President either doesn't know what they want to do or won't tell you, do you really want to vote for them?

The other thing is: can you trust this person to do what they said that they would do? When I was elected SGA President, I had had a list of promises included in my election pamphlet. I stapled a copy of it on the bulletin board in my office opposite my desk so that every time I looked up, I could see what had to be done. I did all of the 13 promises or did my best to achieve them (a couple I just couldn't). Getting politicians to do what they said they would is damned important.

3. Is this person committed to working for students? If you vote, just for the sake of it, for someone who looks cute, is friendly, drinks with you, and smiles a lot then you might as well have gone to the ballot box and burnt your vote. You have voted for the wrong reason! Being taken in by some good-looking candidate with a glad hand is really dumb.

If you are going to vote for this reason — don't. This is not to say that any of the candidates are all image and no substance.

However, the SGA President must be committed. Is the person talking to you running for President in order to get a \$100,000 salary for next year? Is she/he running to get

a neat apartment in Married Students with a rent subsidy? Is he/she running to get something really good on their résumé? These are the wrong reasons to run for dog catcher let alone SGA President. (dog catcher, however, has better hours)

4. Would you want this person to be seen as your spokesperson and does she/he know what he/she is talking about? When some pompous jerk from Queen's, Western or some other big school

gets up at an Ontario or Canadian Federation of Students Conference and starts reeling off lists of facts about post-secondary education or some obscure point of Robert's Rules of Order will the person standing in front of you, telling you how great they are, know what to do? Or will they grin vacantly and abstain on an important vote? The person working for us as SGA President must not only know what some issues are (those will come up in the election campaign). They

must also know how they affect Laurentian students, and have some depth of knowledge about them.

For the record, here is a list of the six people running for Prez:

Michael Erskine  
Ben Farella  
Charlie Fouriezios  
Lucy Luciano  
Rob Norris  
Sheena Weir

Choose wisely, we'll be stuck with them for a year. AND FOR GOD'S SAKE DON'T FLIP A COIN!



## Letters To The Editor

### God's a Heterosexual

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to the February 13<sup>th</sup> edition of *Lambda* where God was portrayed as "rather not being involved" in homosexuality.

Recently, it appears that the push has been to normalize the homosexual mindset and way of life. Gays have been the major victims of AIDS which has led to a tolerant perhaps even supportive arm from the general public.

Discussions within the classroom on homosexuality are based on the premise, "I'm ok, you're ok!"

Yes, before God, we, as His creation are "okay" but many of our actions and thoughts are not. Some have dived head first into the whole gay scene, apparently without hesitation. Others have been tugged in over a period of time and then some are still "holding out."

Even the Church can't deny that many of its members are having tremendous struggles with homosexuality. Growing masses of gays are parading down the streets with banners, pursuing a newfound freedom to do what they want. But the real things so many seek after: friendship, acceptance and love, elude them, remaining just outside their reach. Deep inside of everyone there is a yearning for something meaningful and real in relationships. But, by the admission of

those who have been there, the gay lifestyle delivers a drop of pleasure and a gallon of loneliness and pain.

A homosexual is a person who not only has a strong attraction for the same sex, but has made the decision to yield to those desires. The gay mentality/lifestyle isn't things you just "stumble" into — you walk into them step by step.

If you're turned off to God right now, please give him a chance to explain himself. Just as you may be misunderstood sometimes, God has really been misunderstood. He

has designed you, knows everything about you, and cares for you more than you may even care for yourself. His hopes are that we would enjoy his world, and his presence. Yet, we shut him out of our lives. Still, his only desire is that perhaps once again people will enjoy the world, and his presence in their lives.

So what's wrong with being gay, anyway? It's my sexual preference. What difference does it make? Didn't God make us the way we are? So many have struggled with homosexual desires that there's a

growing confusion as to whether or not it's wrong and whether a person can really be free from it at all. There are a lot of "experts" who seem to come up with new "answers" every day, but in order to get the unchanging truth, we need to look into the Manufacturer's Manual — The Bible.

God had made each one of us in a special way — "custom designed." In fact, he holds the only patent on the human race. So if anyone knows how we're supposed to work the best... He does! God wants us to be filled with real happiness, and throughout the Bible, he shows us the Way to Life, and the Way to Death. Therefore, God set up certain laws to keep us from destroying ourselves.

God isn't some kind of kill-joy trying to prevent anyone from having any fun; rather, his laws are to enable us to get the maximum out of life. His rules aren't a bunch of arbitrary dos and don'ts, they all make total sense when you stand back and take a look at the whole picture. Just about everyone recognizes the fact that murder is wrong. We don't think it's wrong because there's a law against it, rather, we made laws because it was wrong. If you said, "Hey I don't like this law of gravity; it's too confining; I want to be free..." and proceeded to step out of a 10th floor window you'd end up destroying yourself. The law of gravity only recognizes reality. Similarly, the laws or principles

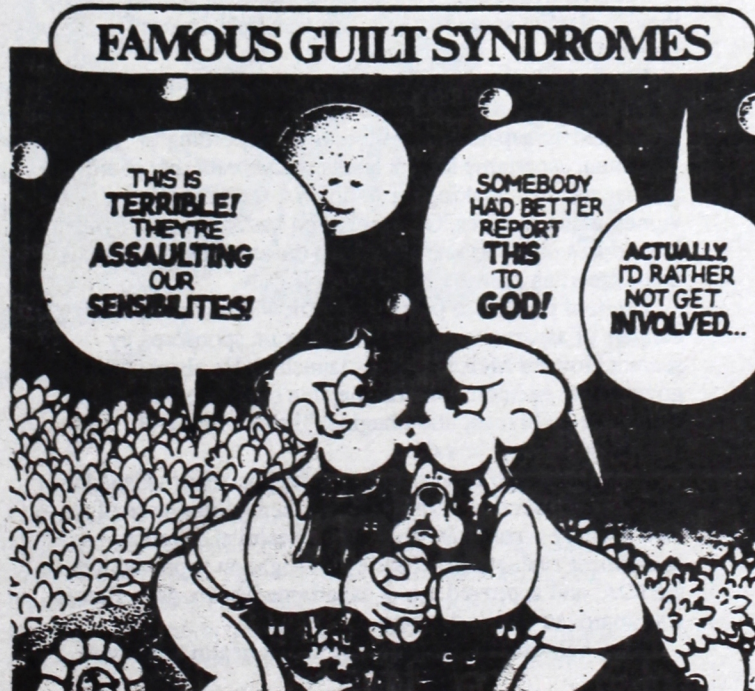
that God has given us in the Bible only show us the way things really are. We've been carefully designed, body, mind, and soul, for a specific purpose, and have a responsibility to use our lives in a right way. It's when we misuse our lives for selfish reasons that everything is knocked out of kilter. God loves each person, but hates selfishness because he sees how it destroys our relationships.

Further, he never intended men and women to be gay, and he also makes it clear that those who practice these things cannot be at peace with him or even at peace with themselves.

Don't let anyone tell you that the "natural function" of a homosexual is for members of the same sex and that it would be "unnatural" for them to be heterosexual. (This is a common argument among some groups). The real problem here is nothing new, and it's not unique to people faced with homosexual desires. The problem is trying to do what's right when you feel like doing something else.

Everyone struggles with desires and temptations for things that aren't good. For the most part, desires by themselves aren't good or bad, even having strong temptations every day isn't evil (but it is hard). The one who sees to the core of our hearts says that, "Each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust." (James 1:14)

See Letter page 8





# ASPARTAME

## *Selling a lifestyle at the expense of*

By John Gushue  
Canadian University Press

The scene is bright, fresh, and alive. Three ultra-thin Madonna clones bounce along a busy avenue, skipping to their favourite beat, draped in their favourite fashions, and drinking their favourite drink. That's Diet Coke, and they love it. You can tell by just looking at them. This commercial is beamed daily into millions of homes, and you can bet the people there love Diet Coke too. More importantly, they love aspartame, the 'natural' sweetener that's turning the food industry upside down.

The reasons why these would-be Madonnas love Diet Coke — and the approximately 70 other soft drinks, desserts, and calorie-conscious foods in which aspartame is found — are obvious. When the non-nutritive saccharin had been banned and then reapproved for commercial use in the United States following charges of being carcinogenic, America looked for something new to satisfy its sweet tooth. Protests from dentists and health food advocates, as well as then-record high prices, were scaring consumers from sugar, so a new alternative was needed. Along came aspartame, a non-cancerous nutritive that had been known of for years, but never approved by the powerful Food and Drug Administration until 1981. And unlike saccharine, which left a metallic, bitter aftertaste, aspartame provides a pleasant, sweet sensation.

For G.D. Searle and Co., the San Francisco conglomerate that produces aspartame for about 60 million consumers in Canada and the USA, the results are also pleasant and sweet. The company sold more than three tons of the sweetener in 1984, and company profits from aspartame alone are predicted to soon exceed \$1 billion per year. People, especially children, young women, and dieters, have taken the aspartame challenge, and everyone seems to have won.

Aspartame was approved for legal use in the USA and Canada almost five years ago, and since then has found a warm spot in many hearts. Yet aspartame is not loved by all of its users, and some critics say no one should consume products containing the additive until more tests are done.

**'Some serious epileptic attacks are related to aspartame consumption. It lowers levels in the brain that guard against seizures.'**

Rod Leonard, director of the Community Nutrition Institute in Washington, D.C., says there are too many unanswered questions about aspartame's safety to rest easy. Leonard and the CNI are calling for a temporary aspartame ban until independent studies prove the additive is safe for public consumption.

"We want aspartame removed from store shelves, put simply. There are too many outstanding issues that must be resolved," he said.

While clinical studies have shown the sweetener should not be used by some groups, such as pregnant women and small children, more and more aspartame users are ending their love affair with the controversial sweetener.

When Pat Tobin, now a graduate student at Carleton University in Ottawa, saw a new fleet of diet soft drinks flood supermarkets in 1981, she saw a new solution to her weight problems.

"I didn't look at it like a diet pill, but I thought I could fill up on it — that there would be no calories," Tobin says. She took an immediate liking to aspartame-sweetened drinks, though soon found her fondness had soured into what she now calls an addiction. However, officials at the Donwood Institute and the Addiction Research Centre, both of Toronto, say there is no known evidence supporting the theory that aspartame is addictive, and that caffeine may be responsible. Tobin, a recovering alcoholic, disagrees.

"I have one soft drink, and then I want another. I know a physical addiction when I have one, and I'm addicted to Diet

Coke. Besides, I hate coffee, and I don't eat chocolate" says Tobin. She says she was drinking about eight cans a day last fall, "depending on how broke I was."

**'Because the brain forms until the age of six, high aspartame intake could be wreaking havoc on many youngsters.'**

Tobin has other complaints about aspartame. Since giving up the sweetener in January, Tobin says her health has improved. "My sleeping habits cleared up immediately — I didn't have a night in years where I didn't wake up at least six times. But it went away just like that," she says.

"I also have a better taste for foods, I'm not nearly as edgy or jumpy, and it's easier to hold my train of thought."

Tobin said her experiences with aspartame and recent studies on the sweetener indicate the additive is not safe. "Someone told me that aspartame changes the firing order of neurons, and that scared the shit out of me. I found I'd leave the last letter from a word when I was writing — it was regular enough to make me wonder," she says.

Leonard says most of Tobin's complaints have been found elsewhere many times before. "Dizziness is quite common, as well as very severe and continuing headaches that medication can't seem to affect," he said.

Leonard says the 18 studies currently investigating aspartame show the additive's safety is questionable, although the respected American Medical Association approved use of the sweetener last summer.

"If you assume the AMA found no problem, then why are there these studies? Aspartame shouldn't be on the market until they are completed," he said.

The AMA decision was a re-evaluation of original studies that led to aspartame's approval in the States. As is accepted practice, the original studies were conducted by the manufacturer. Leonard said the AMA's findings were inconclusive, and relied too much on Searle for information. "I think the AMA was influenced by Searle — they went along with them all the way," he said.

The AMA report did observe that some "individuals may have an unusual sensitivity" to aspartame, notably young children, pregnant women, and people with phenylketonuria, or PKU, a rare genetic disorder.

"Although use needs to be monitored for PKU, the AMA concluded that there was no evidence of danger to the general public," said Harold Lubin of the AMA's Chicago headquarters. But Leonard says the AMA investigation failed to review widespread complaints about the sweetener.

"The AMA is being very cavalier about all of it. It's as if they're playing some sort of high-stake poker game," Leonard said.

Richard Wurtman, a researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, found some serious epileptic attacks are related to aspartame consumption. According to Wurtman, aspartame lowers levels in the brain that guard against seizures, making the additive a serious risk to people vulnerable to seizures. Other research has shown rats given large doses of aspartame developed uterine polyps, or small, non-cancerous growths.

Leonard says more people may know of the potential dangers of aspartame once a public forum sponsored by senator Howard Metzenbaum is launched. He also hopes government opinion, long on the side of Searle, may soon shift once an investigation begins. "I think that will embarrass Searle," he said.

Aspartame also makes for booming business in Canada, though the federal government has taken no initiative of its own to study aspartame. Instead, the health and welfare department evaluated the Searle investigation approved by the FDA, and approved use of aspartame just six days after it was approved by Washington.

John Salmimeon of the department's health protection

branch defends the government's decision as reasonable. "We have no doubt in our data that we have, that aspartame is safe," he dismissed Leonard's objections to the study while it is still being studied in laboratories. "Studies on food additives are always being done, and we will continue to do studies on aspartame for years to come."





## consumer safety



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Lubin of the AMA said "I would be surprised if evidence came to light that aspartame was unsafe."

Consumer complaints and investigations aside, Searle must also deal with a growing amount of media concern. Numerous articles in the print media, as well as investigative reports on CBC's *Sunday Morning* and *Market Place*, have prompted Searle's American and Canadian

divisions to counter negative publicity with new multi-million dollar campaign. Using press briefings, advertising, and "information bureaus," Searle wants to diffuse public tension about the sweetener. (Besides "unsafe," "sweetener" is one word Searle refuse to call aspartame, because of negative impressions following the debates and subsequent bans on saccharin and cyclamates.)

Searle stresses aspartame does not cause PKU, can be used during pregnancy, and is fine for children, despite the AMA warnings. It also says aspartame is a 'natural' product, containing aspartic acid and phenylalanine, two amino acids found in many protein-enriched foods. Searle literature heavily promotes the "protein" connection, although as American science writer Ellen Ruppel Shell says, "aspartame is far from a natural construct."

Rod Leonard agrees. He says the promotion campaign is "trying to make aspartame look like a natural product, like eggs, milk, bananas. It isn't. It's a chemical that doesn't occur in nature and that is produced through only the most intense chemical mechanisms."

As well, foods such as eggs and milk contain many other types of amino acids, and in far less concentrations. The chemical makeup of aspartame makes it 190 times as sweet as sugar.

Aspartame critics say pregnant woman should not take aspartame because it may affect the mental health of the fetus. As well, most expecting mothers don't know of the hazards of aspartame and phenylketonuria, or that one in sixty people carry a PKU gene (two genes cause the disease).

Aspartame research, though, does show an eight-can-a-day drinker like Pat Tobin is not in danger — the limit for adults is about 12. The limit for small children, though, is much less than that — four. And because many products containing aspartame, including gum, desserts, and soft drinks are marketed directly towards children, many may be far exceeding the recommended limit of safety.

Leonard says disastrous effects of aspartame on young people might be found in years to come. Because the brain forms until the age of six, high aspartame intake could be wreaking havoc on many youngsters.

"We don't know what the long term consumption of aspartame will be. In 40 years will there be conditions that we can trace back to aspartame?" he says.

Searle and companies that use aspartame are required by law to advise consumers that products contain the sweetener. However, advertising and marketing promotions give the impression that the aspartame marker is an attraction, and not a warning.

"What they're selling is a lifestyle," Tobin says. "Those commercials are slick, slick, slick. The advertising exploits several vulnerable groups — children, young girls, the overweight. They're marketing it as a lifeline, and it isn't."

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'While the sweet tooth is fooled, the rest of the body isn't.'

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While Tobin was coping with sleep loss and dizzy spells she also noticed no significant weight reduction. According to an article Shell wrote in the *Atlantic*, "controlling weight has far more to do with curtailing fat than with curtailing sugar and that obese people are more likely to have a 'fat tooth' than a sweet one."

In other words, while the sweet tooth is fooled, the rest of the body, including the bloodstream, isn't. The body automatically looks for more food, and may not lose any weight at all, according to research by Katherine Porikos of the Foothills Hospital in Calgary.

Although participants monitored in her 1979 study reduced their caloric intake when sugar was unknowingly removed from their diet, they increased their intake of other substances. "They eat a bit more of everything — starch, protein, and some carbohydrates," she said. She said her short-term study yielded no positive proof that aspartame can help lose weight.

Marsha Sharp, a Toronto dietician and executive director of the Canadian Dietetic Association, says she has recommended aspartame to clients in the past. "I'd recommend it, and will do so again." She says the promotional war between Searle, and the battered sugar industry with each promoting adverse effects of the other, can confuse people. "The war between the two is like a Pepsi and Coke war — it's like six of one and a half dozen of the other," she says.

Porikos is cautious of both sides of the aspartame debate. "There's a lot of speculation and hype," she says, although there is not enough information gathered on aspartame to "show whether this would actually help people."

"The lack of information is a crime," says Tobin, who was not aware of most information about aspartame until she had stopped consuming the additive. She says products containing the sweetener should be taken from the shelves until the sweetener is declared safe by an acceptable source.

Tobin says she feels bitter about using aspartame in ignorance.

"I thought they wouldn't be selling it unless it was safe," she said.



# residence columns

8

## Strokers' Box

Another week has gone by and Ramms found things to report even though it was like a dead zone.

Firstly, women's Powder Puff hockey is coming to an end. After a minor setback last week, Strokettes will attempt to get back on the winning road. L.R. was on Kirk's blacklist last game, hopefully she'll negotiate her contract soon.

La Forge's shooter party saw some Strokers go all out, right John? Thanks to some U.C. boys, the party kept going till the end. All of this went on while 1<sup>st</sup> Blue and 1<sup>st</sup> Gold were in the middle lounge doing things of their own.

Movie night was another suc-

cess, some Strokers might have learned new tricks others new love? What were T.D. and K.D. doing in the back?

Pine's ball hockey team came out the eventual winner over Pete's team in the co-ed ball hockey tourney. Consolation saw Mario's team nipping by Guy's team. Congratulations!

Golden bucket award goes out to Mike L. for his past performance.

Your everloving Ramms

P.S. Don't forget, the year-end banquet coming soon. Are Ray and Sylvana really going to the banquet together?

## Unicornia

Well, here we are with only 219 shopping days left until Christmas. We've had a fairly quiet week. I guess many of us are waiting for the formal to roll around. If you don't have a date yet, you should check with Martha's dating service.

On Wednesday night, the "Fallen Angels" hosted our pub night, and a good time was had by all. On Friday, Diane C. hosted the Bowling Tourney. Only four teams came out, thus making it easy to take home the hardware. Pete, Ozzy, Sandy, and Lynn were the high total team. Congratulations!

Most of the boys from 7<sup>th</sup> went to Mike G.'s cottage, so J.P. decided to scoop for the whole floor, and Scott tried to drink for them. I hear both efforts were hurling material.

I'm sorry to hear you were

rejected when asking for a formal date Stormin', I guess you didn't know she was waiting for "Mr. Wonderful."

On Saturday night, there was a Purple J. party in Wiley's and a barrel wash party in town. But no scoops. Apparently, Claire lost her clothes in Darren's room, but Darren told her to get out and look somewhere else. Some of the boys went to the Parklane, and Shorty went for a pick-up. Unfortunately, he was too pissed.

J.D.'s questions of the week: Is it over for Martha and Greg? Has the Greek already lost interest in Andrea? Who is the girl (hint: aerobics) that wears a girdle on 4<sup>th</sup>? And are you a turtle? Goodnight Drugmaster, and good-day Ming.

J.D.

## Thorneloe Thunder

Well Thunderbirds, another week has come and gone. Politics seem to be dominating residence life. First of all, congratulations go out to Bill C., Derek and Mary S. It was a tough campaign, but they were acclaimed.

We'd like to extend our best wishes to Dave F., Charlie F. and John W. for making L.U. an interesting place, Good luck guys!

Thorneloe Council elections are on Thursday and the race for V.P. is heating up — it's all out war (play-fighting that is) amongst the three candidates.

Derek realized a dream-come-true, as he was cast for a part — not a movie, but his leg.

The T-birds have shown why it is that we call ourselves *Thunder Birds*. This past weekend, we held our Year-End Banquet. There was plenty of close dancing, drinking and various prizes were awarded.

The prizes were numerous, but the Byrd would like to congratulate Bill C. and Derek Z. on tying for the Golden Toilet Award for Frosh of the Year. Bill, how was it that Derek and his crutches beat you to the front to receive the award?

Casey didn't drink too much. It appears her first serious encounter with the magical elixir had some lasting effect from the night before.

Now to confirm the predictions which were mentioned in this column last week.

Richard turned up with a celebrity alright... in the form of a cassette.

Derek didn't swap crutches, he just laid them down showing how

to dance in form with a leg cast.

Surprise, Sarge wasn't dancing by himself. We should all watch out if there is a polka.

Todd had a dozen or more beautiful women around him. What's your secret? That tux couldn't be enough alone!

At times, Casey, Miriam and Carolyn B. became joined at the hips... a new problem for modern science to cure.

And how's this for accurate. Bert wasn't the first girl to be "influenced," was she, Mary B?

Trevor where did you learn those moves? Bill S. you should learn to move that way on the dance floor.

Joan surprised us all and yet Mary S. kept to true form and let the curses be... isn't that so, Jackie?

What do you say Dr. S-W, can we make the classroom into an extra bedroom to keep Jackie, Peter and Little Jamie?

Sarge, why was all that steam coming off your body?

Penny, you should do something with Jamie's hips — Elvis had nothin' on him.

Congratulations to Derek for organizing a good "debauchery" party. What was it that Swedish girl said... "Ya, I put out?" Really boys!

All in all, it was a great week, a great way to go before digging into those last-minute assignments and... No! Nooo! Keep them away... exams.

Bye for now. Remember a wet Byrd flies at night (with the right fuel).

The Byrd

## SGA Elections CRO Announcement

There will be a press conference and question period for all candidates at F-55, Science Building I

Time: 2:30 pm

Thursday, March 13 (Today)

Also, The SGA Grill Session for all candidates will be held Monday, March 17, 1986

Time: 1:00 pm

Be There!

SGA and School of Nursing

PRESENT

## BROKEN WINDOWS (Formerly the XMEN)

Saturday, March 15th, 1986

9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Great Hall

Admission: \$5.00

## Huntington Hilites

This has been kind of a quiet week at Huntington. I think people may be saving up for the year end banquet Saturday night!

Knibbsy had a great time Thursday night at the Pub. It seems she finally met the man of her dreams! As for Jen, she's up to her old tricks. What time was it this weekend Jen?

Friday night brought about a lot of interesting happenings. Ponto's now President of the Hooper's Club. He seems to have acquired this position through his creativity in choosing where he hoops.

Saturday night was the highlight of the weekend. G-H's St. Pat's party was a McSmash! The luck of the Irish seemed to help a lot of people eh, Tracey? A warning goes out to all little brothers visiting for the weekend. I'd also like to add that G-H guys really do know how to give great orgasms! Dr. D. also had a lucky night at the swish party. Do you remember how you got home Derek?

Congratulations to Duff and Herb as the new social centre managers. I'm sure you guys will do a great job. We're also lucky to

have another great *Bun & Run* year ahead of us with Rachelle as manager!

Questions of the week: Did Leslie finish her 6-pack? Are Laura and Casey Huntington's hottest couple? Is Chico back to his old tricks? Why do the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor proctors spend so much time together? Thanks to all who supported the Diabetic fundraising concert. Great job Pronto!

Have fun at the formal, remember I'll be there watching!

The Rat

### Letter

continued from page 5

We're not dragged into rebellion by the way we grew up either, although many times our childhood experiences make it easier to rebel. But in the end, we make our own choices. We decide to give in. We are enticed by our own lust. Whoever or whatever you yield to is your God. If what you "feel" like doing determines what you do, then your feelings are your God. If what you crave after overcomes your will, then the appetite of your flesh is your God. As a gay man put it, "My desires took over my reasoning."

Some of us hate the word *guilt*. But guilt serves a very good purpose. The very presence of guilt proves that we can do what is right. If your boss gave you a

shovel and told you to fill in the Grand Canyon, you wouldn't feel guilty for not doing it would you? Or if your coach asked you to jump a fifty-foot wall, you wouldn't feel bad about not being able to do it, because you can't. It's when we can do what's right and we don't do it that we feel guilty.

We feel that way because we know we should be doing something else. God sends guilt to us as an alarm. Just like the pain in a stubbed toe, the message being sent is, "something is wrong." When the red lights of your conscience go off telling you "Danger!" and you keep pushing, slowly you lose your feelings of guilt. The Bible says that in the last days many will be "seared in their won conscience as with a branding iron." (1 Tim 4:2) Just

because you may not feel as guilty as you used to is not a sign that you're safe, far from it.

Jesus really does care for you and always has. He's not only willing to take away all of your guilt and shame, but if you will turn to him with your heart, turning away from all you know to be wrong, he will give you a new life, as a gay man experiences, "As I discovered the intense, intimate love of God for Me? I was set free from that consuming drive which had held me a slave to perversion." (Pamphlet *I'M GAY, OKAY* — Martin Bennett)

Laurentian Christian Fellowship (LCF)

## Lambda elections

Monday 17, 1986

All staff must be present



# Increased Funding for Grants and Research

OTTAWA — The federal government outlined recently details of the budget announcement of increased funds to the granting councils for university research.

Speaking at a joint press conference, Science and Technology Minister Frank Oberle and Secretary of State Benoit Bouchard explained the federal funding formula that will increase the budgets of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the Medical Research Council by an anticipated \$1 billion to \$3.4 billion over the next five years.

The ministers described the formula designed to stimulate private sector investment in university research funding.

The federal government has pledged to match any investment by the private sector up to a maximum of \$369 million over the next five years. The formula involves a "one for one" matching by government up to a maximum of six per cent of each Council's annual budget.

With a budget of \$324 million in 1986-87, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council supports advanced research and development and the training of scientists and engineers by awarding grants and scholarships to professors and graduate students in Canadian universities and affiliated institutions.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council supports research and scholarship in the social sciences and humanities through programs of scholarship in the social sciences and humanities through programs of fellowships for research training and research resources and support, and grants for research, international scholarly

exchanges and publishing, conferences and research-related activities. The Council's 1986-87 budget is \$70 million.

"I am happy to be able to announce that despite the general context of austerity, our government recognizes the importance of research by agreeing to an increase of \$9 million to the Social

Sciences and Humanities Research Council," said Bouchard. "These additional funds will be of value in increasing research activities of national importance in the field of social sciences. This research will prove to be more and more essential to the coming generation."

Health and Welfare Minister

Jake Epp commented on the budget announcement of increased funding for the Medical Research Council.

"Quality medical research in Canada is demonstrated by securing previous increases in the ongoing budget period of financial restraint," said Epp.

The Medical Research Council supports research in the health

science schools of Canadian universities and their associated teaching hospitals and institutions. Research and training supported by the Medical Research Council cover a wide range of activities from fundamental to applied and clinical research. The Council's 1986-87 budget is \$168 million.

## Bruce Cockburn

by Mike Eadie

The final performance of Bruce Cockburn's *World of Wonders* took place on Sudbury's Empire Theatre last week. This very last show proved to be an experience to be remembered.

Rich in texture and colourful in versatility, Cockburn's music managed to cut through everything that is commercial about the music industry and portray a feeling which is growing rapidly today.

Cockburn sings about people and their perception of the powers that control and influence them. He sings about the human experience in a very personal way... a very human way. What we hear in his lyrics affects us profoundly because they carry a message.

"Don't let the Ushers tell you to sit down, there's more of you than them," sang Cockburn when people who were getting up and dancing in the aisle were told repeatedly to sit down by the usher.

Cockburn was right. Let people

dance if they want to. It's their way of expressing themselves, just like a tribal dance expressed the feelings and emotions of a different society.

The moment people in places of authority start to tell people not to express themselves, you know there's something wrong.

Bruce Cockburn is just not a musician. He's our conscience. He tells us of things that are not just. He reminds us of our duty to open our eyes and see what is going on in the world around us. By knowing what's wrong, we can insure that our rights remain.

Cockburn has the protest feeling of the sixties and seventies and has transformed it, through his music into an awareness in the eighties.

If you want to be aware of the world around us, with all its injustices, go to see Bruce Cockburn in concert. After all, Canada is not so isolated from the rest of the world.



Two members of Bruce Cockburn's band caught in action at the Empire Theatre last week.

Photo by Yannis Mitsopoulos

## AIESEC

### Good news for Laurentian University

By Ted Markle

There is a dynamic new student organization on campus. The Sudbury wing of AIESEC (French acronym for the International Association of Students in Economics and Business Management) was formed last year and is now putting the finishing touches on its second year. In this short time it has become a beneficial force at Laurentian.

AIESEC's goals are threefold. Its first is to provide students with practical business experience. They do this by means of their many fundraising projects. Among other things they have organized a Dream Auction, Career Day, and Send a Friend. Although their activities cost money to the students involved and are always geared to reaping significant profits, they are lots of fun.

AIESEC's second goal is to promote international understanding in the business field. They accomplish this primarily by their international student exchanges. Last year, two students from Laurentian went abroad to work in a business field related to their interest. One worked for a company in India and the other for an establishment in France. They gained the very useful knowledge of how people make a buck in other

cultures. This year six L.U. students will gain the same advantage!

By its nature AIESEC aids in world understanding. It is now in sixty-two countries and four hundred universities worldwide. AIESEC conferences are a cross-section of the world's young, rapacious business people.

The third goal of AIESEC is to bridge the gap between local business students and the local business community. AIESEC made strides in that direction recently at their first annual business luncheon. The AIESEC people met with local business people to talk about the progress made so far and to congratulate each other for being such fine people. There was time to hear an amusing speech by local businessman Mitch Spiegel who left the eager gathering with a motto for the entrepreneur: "Find a challenge and grow to conquer it." This, in essence, is what AIESEC is all about.

Although there are only about seventy-five members of AIESEC currently at Laurentian, new President Cheryl Sillanpaa hopes to increase the ranks to over one hundred next year. She also plans to hold many more events and raise lots of dollars. Sillanpaa, who talks like a smooth business veteran, looks back on this past year with pride as Sudbury was the



AIESEC member, Bruce Hennessy, who feels that his involvement with this student organisation has and will continue to prove beneficial in future endeavors.

Photo by Yannis Mitsopoulos

host of AIESEC's fall regional conference. "Many people from all over Ontario were so impressed with Sudbury and Laurentian.... We also enhance Laurentian's reputation." These are the types of

goodwill ambassadors we can be proud of.

AIESEC is definitely a step in the right direction for Laurentian. It is a vibrant organization on the move. As said by a couple of

AIESEC's more avaricious members, Ralph Tesson and Bruce Hennessy: "AIESEC has helped us gain valuable experience in understanding and participating in local and international business activities."



## Cockburn

"Call it Democracy"

By Heather Beaven

For those of you who missed him, Bruce Cockburn was in town on March 4<sup>th</sup>, putting a concert on at the Empire Theatre. He played for over two hours to a full house of enthusiastic fans.

The crowd just seemed to swallow Cockburn up and were mesmerized by him and his band's remarkable talent. The music consisted of a combination of rock, folk, jazz and blues.

Throughout the concert, people were dancing in the aisles, clapping, whistling and singing with him. One young man had the misfortune of coming into contact with a theatre usher who told him to sit down twice. After one encore, Cockburn came back out and told the audience, "now that you're standing up, don't let those ushers tell you to sit down." Needless to say, this was awarded by tremendous applause, continuous dancing and another encore.

As is known to many people, Cockburn has strong political views that were ever-present in his performance. One of the songs off his latest *World of Wonders* album — "Call It Democracy" — was introduced with a purposeful jab at INCO. Cockburn mentioned something about INCO lay-offs and the fact that they are underpaying workers in third world countries.

Other songs like "If I Had a Rocket Launcher" and "Nicaragua" which were written on his recent journey to Central America,

established his feelings towards some governments' actions.

Cockburn's latest political involvement concerns the plight of the Haida Indians in British Columbia. He has the ability to reach people through his songs, something that results in the yet-unreleased song, "Stolen Land," which deals with the Haida Indians. For the record, Cockburn was approached by members of the Haida Council to do a concert in their aid. Altogether, he managed to raise about \$36,000 for the Council of the Haida Nation.

Cockburn's band consists of six other members: Hugh Marsh on violin, Fergus Marsh on bass and Slick Chi Sharpe as percussionist, Judy Cade doing background vocals, Michael Sloski on drums and Michael Alan White on trumpet, flugelhorn and conch. Evidently, a very diversified group to back Cockburn up.

Anyone who does listen to Cockburn and has seen him live will immediately notice that his recordings and live performances are extremely moving. For those of us who are devout Bruce fans, we can be seen sitting spellbound and in awe at this man's musical ability.

Imagine that we have not heard the cast of the phenomenally talented Bruce Cockburn. I'm sure there is still a lot happening in the world which he would like us to be aware of.



Photo by Yannis Mitsopoulos

Cockburn's politics emanate from his music, says our critic.

## Highlander Worth Seeing

By Jim Coyle

*Highlander* is a film that dares to be unique. And it does so without conceit or pretention. It is, quite simply, one of the best examples of how artistic vision can be expressed in a popular film genre. This sort of filmmaking has been sadly missed in the modern popular cinema, which has been for the most part mediocre since the great Sir Alfred Hitchcock stopped making his artistic statements in the suspense films he created for over fifty years. *Highlander* may be an attempt to bring this creative spirit to fantasy films, the now popular genre of filmmaking.

*Highlander* is the story of a 16<sup>th</sup> century Scottish clansman who mysteriously gains immortality in order to balance and (hopefully) defeat an evil incarnation of an individual with similar power. Christopher Lambert is Connor MacLeod — the Highlander — who must fight the final decisive battle between good and evil (a rather ugly fellow named Kruger, marvelously played by Clancy Brown) in New York City in 1986. But the Highlander must also contend with the problems of immortality, which hinders him from falling in love and prohibits him from having children. And, of course, he does fall in love. Twice.

In the hands of a less visual director, *Highlander* could have been a laughable mess of medieval antics and clichés à la *Ladyhawke*. But Russel Mulcahy turns it into a visual symphony of light, image, and landscape. He beautifully captures the richness of the Scottish highlands, only to juxtapose this beauty with the dank

ugliness of New York City. Throughout the entire film these two worlds stand apart from each other, one harbouring the good (MacLeod) and the other harbouring the bad (Kruger).

Throughout this visual odyssey, the everpresent appearance of water bathes each world, acting both as life-giving and life-threatening. Time becomes fluid also, as the narrative flows from medieval to modern; the characters seem to drift back and forth in the very mist that dominates almost every scene.

The incredible images that Mulcahy creates are also represented in the editing in the film, which expresses many of the underlying tensions of the story and the characters and makes for some ingeniously beautiful transitions between scenes. The film progresses smoothly and lyrically; even the action blends with swift yet gentle course of the film's narrative.

There are also some very noteworthy performances in the film, especially Lambert, Brown and, of course, Sean Connery. But there are moments — and, granted, they are quite few — where the characters lose substance. The scenes in which Connery trains Lambert for his immortal task, and the scenes in which Lambert's lover/wife (the actress, whose name escapes me at the moment, plays a double role) hopelessly screams (and screams and screams!!!) in shock while her heroes battle Kruger in various situations, seem too typical of other less ambitious films which have made use of similar circumstances: noble teachers and helpless females are a bit old hat these days.

However, those concerns are only mildly distracting and can be easily overlooked. What *Highlander* delivers in non-stop action depicted in a very unique and aesthetically pleasing visual style. Few filmmakers today take the time to use their work as a form of expressionism, especially those directors who work in popular cinematic genres.

*Highlander* is a pleasure to watch and to experience. And if we try not to let that awful soundtrack by Queen distract us, we will be sure to enjoy one of the best two hours of popular filmmaking around today. I hope that Russel Mulcahy will continue to make serious films in his own style and vision. I hope that he perseveres in the way that such modern geniuses as David

Lynch, Francis Coppola, and Ridley Scott have; I hope that he does not become another Steven Spielberg.

*Highlander*, Russel Mulcahy (Twentieth Century-Fox)

## On the Turntable

by Big Guy

Midge Ure: *The Gift* (Chrysalis Records)

Midge Ure is the lead vocalist and driving force behind the British Pop band Ultravox. The Irish singer also co-wrote "Do They Know It's Christmas" with countryman Bob Geldof and has taken a leave of absence from Ultravox to complete this solo album. "If I Was" was number one in England and it is also doing very well on the Canadian charts.

Ultravox fans will be pleased to note the similarity between much of *The Gift* and Ure's previous work, but there are some quirky instrumentals as well. "Edo" is an Oriental or East Indian inspired piece with a haunting feel to it. "Chieftan" is a violent rhythm-oriented cut that is powerful and beautiful at the same time.

The album also features Ure's second release, "That Certain Smile," and my favourite tune,



entitled "She Cried."

*The Gift* is written, produced and played (every instrument but bass) by Ure. It is a personal statement, his 'Gift' to his friends and fans and a worthwhile acquisition.

The sound is keyboard-based and very reminiscent of Ultravox, yet has a more omnipresent feel and sound that Ure has added along with his personal expressions.



# Big Bucks = Big Controversy

Sports From The Big Chair

by Bruce Hennessy

After a lengthy absence from the editorial page I have decided to once again voice my opinion on one of sport's most controversial topics — salaries.

Throughout those lazy, hazy and often crazy days of summer yours truly kept a watchful eye on the sporting world. After compiling large volumes of sports sections from various publications, the tedious task of sorting pertinent articles started.

One subject that seem to appear much more frequently than others concerned the astronomical wages of various professionals and the problems associated with these.

Difficulties ranged from contract negotiations to player walkouts right down to eventual strikes.

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, the day the baseball players decided to strike, a prominent player's representative for the National Hockey League questioned the definite possibility of a strike of their own.

It seems that the best way for settling an issue was to strike and with collective agreement problems the players were ready to test the waters.

I personally feel that these so-called professionals are already

being paid such gargantuan sums that they have no right to even consider earning more money.

Although many people feel the same way about this issue it is perhaps too late to do anything about it. It seems that each time salary arbitration is in the news, a player is comparing himself to someone else to prove that he is worth a better contract. All it took to start this vicious circle was one outrageous salary and everything seem to unravel from there.

But if a player ever compared him or herself to the rest of the world it would be much easier to see that their salaries are unjustifiable. There are millions and millions out there who work hard day in/day out contributing to their job in much the same way that a professional in any other sport contributes but for barely a fraction of the pay. Forget about equal rights for just women, we are all losing in this battle of inequality.

With no solution seen in the near future it seems like professional sports will not be able to keep up with the rapid pace that it started. Average salaries in some sports reach over \$350,000 whereas just a decade ago the



**TRENT FRAYNE**

**Players air for rich**

The thing that m ing baseball str there are no v no pickets.

Pickets? Pickets. Stieb in his \$67,000 p, pling off the backless p, gloves, tossing them casu seat, and stepping forth in loafers for a couple of Extermination Sta worst ballpar batt's in"

**Young signs for \$1-million**

DETROIT (AP) — Detroit Red Wings signed high-scoring forward Warren Young to the highest free-agent contract in National Hockey league history, the club announced Tuesday.

Young, who was a ... burgh Penn...

**Wenington ponders deal with Dallas**

By JAMES DAVIDSON

Young's agent, Bill Watters, re- fused to confirm details of the con- tract Tuesday nil lecting an offer guaranteed... for the coming out the de- creasing two of the years at least. "I've been in the draft two months to rookie camp, but he had gone to camp and he'd had something post- been injured or had something really happened to me that would hurt my bargaining pos- ition," Wenington said. "They said the camp was manda- tory and where I told them I wasn't coming."

Wenington was one of U.S. basketball's most im- players this past season, anchored Canada's na- tion. "Maestri's he'll fight ng position with hold- ing him from the back- ick, Uwe Blab from Indiana."

**Exploding sala**

66 THE TORONTO STAR, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1985

Disturbing news from Green Bay, the National Football League's answer to Regina Pres- dent Robert Parins says the Pack a league original in 1921, must p a cap on exploding salaries or fr extinction. told the Milwa- Parins that two more yer salary inflation to match i Sentinel finish the Pack's salary would not confirm figure- would from the NFL Player's not last yer

erson sent the Green Bay budget skyrocketing at a time when the USFL was arriving to push aver- salaries up more than 40 per cent. The USFL, its first two seasons, was averaging \$115,000 per player.

**The moaning penny-pinchers:**

average was closer to \$50,000. It is these quantum leaps that can be blamed for the sudden demise of such short-lived professional leagues including the World Hockey Association and the American Basketball Association. Their efforts to lure so-called superstars to their respective leagues caused bidding wars which drove the salaries into oblivion.

In closing, I would like to add a few quotes from some fellow sports fans whose feelings closely mirror those of my own:

"If Bob Geldof found out about the woes of the Major League baseball player I'm sure he would be ashamed of himself for not organizing some kind of benefit to aid their tragic plight."

Anonymous

"To me, the baseball players are opportunists, extorting more money by mass resistance, rather than effort and ability."

Anonymous

## Intramurals

### Innertube Waterpolo

by David Zivkovic

left the NADS with the bronze medal and set up the finals between the mixed innertube waterpolo has In the final game, the Aqua come to a close. In semi-final Beauties clipped the Dolphin's fins action the Huntington Water Rats and ended up winning 8-4. Strong proved to be "real rats" by not goaltending and the dominant play showing up and defaulting to the of Chris Campbell proved to be too mighty U.C. Aqua Beauties. In the much for the Huntington crew to other semi-final matchup, Greg handle.

"Beaker" Abrams played a strong Thanks to all of the teams for game in leading the Huntington participating this year and a special Dolphins to a 10-2 whitewash over thanks to Molson's for their the NADS. The result of this game contributions to the tournament.

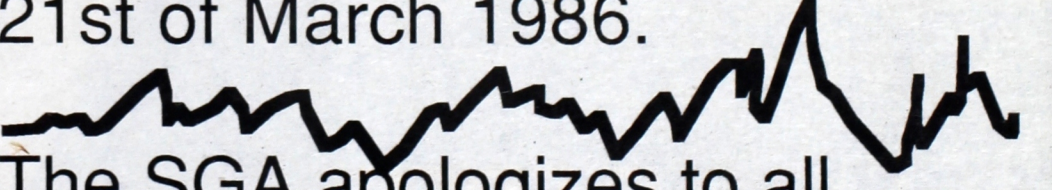
#### THE FOURTH ANNUAL NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO LIFEGUARD COMPETITION

Date: Friday March 14, 1986  
Time: 11:00 a.m. Relay event to commence at 4:00 p.m.  
Location: Olympic Gold Pool, Laurentian University  
Teams: Teams from across Northern Ontario, such as Kirkland Lake Sault Ste. Marie, and North Bay will be competing for the title.  
Refreshments will be available at the facility.  
For further information, contact Shelly Hood or Kim Robinson at 674-0032.

## SGA Election Dates Changed

### Attention Students:

The SGA Elections will be held on Wednesday 19th, 20th and 21st of March 1986.




The SGA apologizes to all candidates and students for any inconvenience caused by this change

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## SGA Services Notice

Tuesday Night's Entertainment has been switched to Monday in light of the St. Patrick's Day Celebration in the Pub.

The Voyageur Pub is celebrating St. Patrick's Day in true Colours:

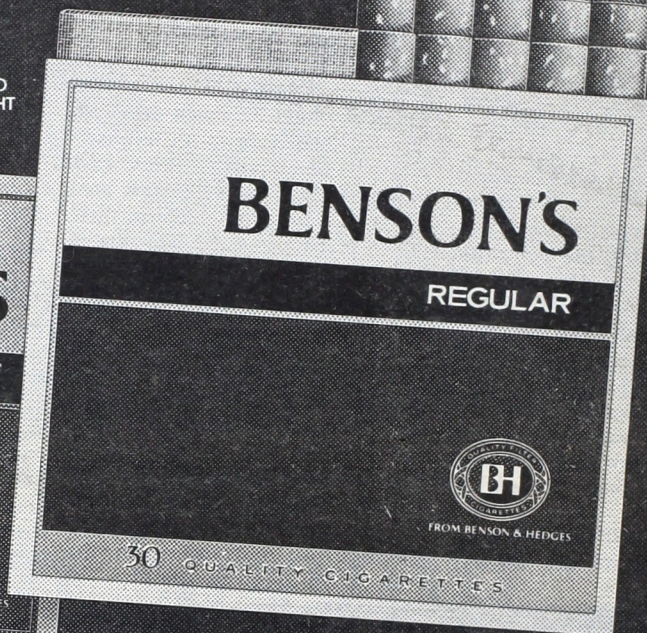
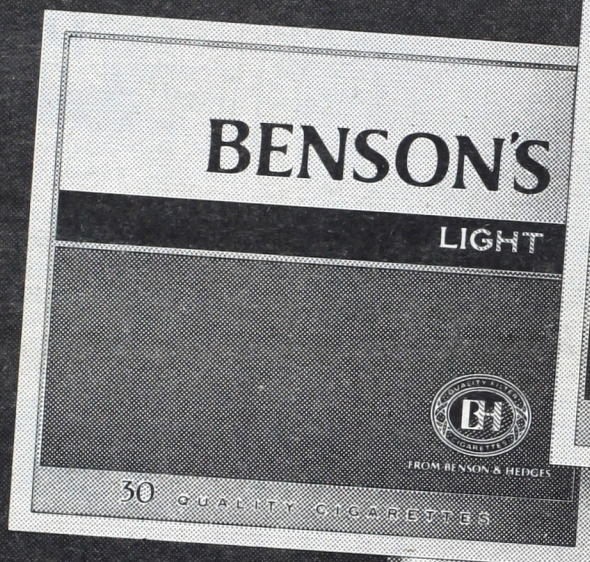
Available are: Green Draught beer, prizes and live entertainment



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